

THE WEBB

GARDNER-WEBB
COLLEGE

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Number 8

ROBERTS NAMED ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR



THE BEST LAID PLANS OF 'MICE AND MEN' . . .



'OFT TIMES' WORK OUT JUST FINE

. . . Evidenced By The Planning Of Alumni Committee

(Part of the tribute paid Roberts at the Alumni Banquet)

The person whom we honor tonight is a man of words. Whether they are many or few depends upon his mood and needs of the occasion. Whether he uses them in written or spoken form makes little difference. He uses them equally well and effectively in either form.

Perhaps he naturally came by his talent for the use of words. He was born September 14, 1926 in Shelby, North Carolina, the fourth child of a Cleveland County farm family. Thus, he grew up in the tradition of the *Horsey* excellence of the area. To this background may be added the fact of his family's history as Baptists, with their emphasis on liberty and freedom of expression. In addition, he practiced the language arts as he followed the roads and forests and did other work on the family farm as the Elizabeth Church Community.

He cultivated his ability to use words through his formal educational preparation. He graduated from Barrow High School of Cleveland County in 1944 and from Gardner-Webb College in 1949, from which he received the Citizenship Award upon completing his work here. He earned his B.A. degree from Furman University in January, 1951, with a major in English and a minor in Journalism. The M.A. degree was earned in 1952 from George Peabody College with a major in English.

His ability to use words persuasively is revealed in talking Miss Helen Elizabeth Goodwin of Greenville, South Carolina, into being his wife in 1950. Like himself, she is a graduate of Gardner-Webb and Furman. To this union has been born six children, three sons and three daughters. No doubt, this means many words are used and repeated around this household, so father has the opportunity to stay in practice using them.



Officers for the Gardner-Webb College Alumni Association are: left to right, Mrs. Nancy Griffin '55 of Boiling Springs, secretary; Don Camp '47 of Lovelade, president; and Mrs. Mirna Bowling (Richard) Rice '38 of Greenville, S. C., vice-president.

CONSTITUTION IS CHANGED

The general Alumni Association convention was attended at the May 11 meeting so as to eliminate dues of a REQUIRED AMOUNT each year. Instead of such provision for ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP, we have specified a contribution in an amount determined by the alumnus.

The year for the Alumni Association will follow the fiscal year of the College. This means we will work on a July 1 - June 30 basis.

Help us invest in the youth of today by making an investment in Christian Higher Education through Gardner-Webb. Your gift will be greatly appreciated.



John Roberts, center, receives the "Alumnus of the Year" Award from Dr. Eugene Poston, left, while James Gilbert, Alumni Association President, looks on.

(Continued on back page)

1968 GRADUATING CLASS IS LARGEST EVER; FOUR OUTSTANDING PERSONS AWARDED CITATIONS AT COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES



Cited during commencement activities for outstanding service were: left to right, R. Patrick Spangler of Shelby, Judge Woodrow Jones of Rutherfordton and Thomas I. McGraw of Belling Springs. John (Jack) Finley of Cherryville was cited in absentia.



James Finley, chairman of the board of directors for J. P. Stevens Co., Inc., spoke to graduates at commencement.

James W. Finley, J. P. Stevens Executive, Gave Literary Address To Graduates

A federal judge, two members of the state's Board of Conservation and Development and a college vice-president were awarded special Citations by Gardner-Webb College during commencement exercises Sunday, May 13.

Judge Woodrow Jones of Rutherfordton, judge for the federal district of Western N. C., R. Patrick Spangler, Cleveland County industrialist and vice-chairman of the Board of Conservation and Development, John W. (Jack) Finley of Cherryville, executive vice-president of Carolina Freight Co., Inc. and a member of the Board of Conservation and Development and Thomas I. McGraw, vice-president of Gardner-Webb were given citations voted by the college's board of trustees.

These awards were given before the Literary Address to 190 graduates of Gardner-Webb by James W. Finley, chairman of the board of J. P. Stevens and Co., Inc. of New York. Finley, introduced by U. S. Congressman Basil L. Whittam, told the graduates, "I feel your generation faces the danger of losing its individuality to different pressures (this avoiding responsibilities). Even as I speak to you now there are people demonstrating for rights, protesting for rights, fasting for rights, even rioting for rights. The public demonstration, the rally, the strike, the protest march, all these are forms of mass action which your generation has put in the headlines of today's newspapers and on the screens of all our TV sets.

"But where is the individual in all of this? Can we say that the young men in the middle of the 17th row of demonstrators is there as an individual? Does that group really say everything he believes and nothing more? Or has he simply subrogated his individuality to serve the cause of the mass . . . not his own cause? I think the answer is obvious."

Finley went on to say that the greatness of America is in the individual as exemplified through the election process which forces candidates to face the public as individuals and prevents them from hiding behind a "party" label.



As is evident in the above picture (this was the front of our alumni banquet program), we are interested in our alumni wherever they live. We have planned and promoted meetings in eighteen places since January 1. There are more than a dozen additional places that are prime prospects for meetings (and chapters) with seven of them in Cleveland and Rutherford Counties having already been organized in previous years. We say "thank you" to the large number of people for the excellent service rendered as assisting us in this work.



Mr. Hubert Dixon, mathematics professor at the college, and his bride-to-be, Miss Katy Ruth Grayson of Raleigh, happily greet alumni and friends at the recent alumni meeting. The couple will be married at 4 p.m., July 20 in the First Baptist Church of Forest City. Miss Grayson, formerly an associate at the State Convention's Training Union Department for seven years, is serving as director of religious education at Hope Baptist Church in Raleigh.

An Alumnae Appointed Missionary

Mrs. Vera Rose Johnson '36 has recently been appointed a missionary to the Philippines, along with her husband Dr. Paul B. Johnson, by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board. Vera and Paul volunteered for missions 12 years ago at Ridgecrest Baptist Assembly. Dr. Johnson expects to teach theology in a Baptist School in the Philippines. He received the doctor of theology degree from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. Mrs. Johnson received her bachelor of arts degree from Mississippi College. They have two sons, David - six, and Raymond - three. They have been serving the Posterson Springs Baptist Church, Route 1, Grover.



The "Joyful Noise", a folk song group composed of Gardner-Webb students, made a splash hit with alumni friends during the May 11 alumni association dinner. Music, literary, folk songs, and religious songs with a folk music theme, the "Joyful Noise" proved why they have been in demand throughout the spring for engagements in the area.

Summer Sessions Set At GW

Gardner-Webb Summer School will begin June 8 and run through July 12. The second session begins July 15 and runs through August 17.

Registration will begin at 9 a.m. on June 8 with an assembly at the E. B. Hamrick Auditorium. Regular classes will begin June 10. The final day a student can register for credit is June 15.

A variety of courses in liberal arts and data processing will be offered and persons interested should contact Dr. J. Thurman Lewis for full information.

Residence halls in use will be air conditioned as will the library and campus center. The college swimming pool and other recreational facilities will be available for students enrolled in summer school.

Classes will meet Monday through Friday of each week. Three hour credit classes will meet one hour and 35 minutes per day. The only exception to the schedule is Saturday June 29, when students meet to make up for July 4, which is observed as a holiday.

ROBERTS (continued from front page)

From 1954 to 1960 he was Associate Director of Public Relations at Gardner-Webb. In this capacity he taught two classes in English and Journalism. He was responsible for the operation of the College news bureau, College radio programs, all publications, and represented the College at the various annual Baptist associational meetings and at many high schools each year for the college day programs. Also, he served in the auditorium but actual capacity of alumni meetings and assisted the vice president in fund raising efforts. In 1958 he was named "Peculiarly Member of the Year" by the Carolinian Committee of the Board of Trustees. This suggests that they recognized his proper and appropriate use of words in his many activities and associations. By secret ballot he was chosen highly endorsed man for this honor.

In recognition of his ability to use words in a wider area of service, he was named editor of *Chesley* and *Children* in 1960. This Baptist Children's Home weekly publication had a circulation of fifty-five thousand when he left it in 1965. During this period, he was public relations director for the Children's homes at Thessville, Kinross, Pembroke, and Chapel Hill.

On July 3, 1965 he became the associate editor and business manager of *The Baptist Courier*, the official journal of the South Carolina Baptist State Convention. The following year he was elevated to the dual position of editor and business manager. *The Baptist Courier*, founded in 1868 has a circulation of more than eighty thousand. Under the new head it is growing and exerting an increasingly effective influence on its readers.

Anna H. Branch wrote:

God wove a web of loveliness
of clouds and stars and birds,
But made not anything at all
So beautiful as words!

Because he has helped us to know this truth, and because he has aided us in understanding ourselves, others, and the events of our times, and because he has advanced the cause of communication through journalism and the use of words, we name John E. Roberts as "Gardner-Webb College Alumnus of the Year 1968."

Branch, Anna H., "His Words".

Memorings....

- Drama awards this year went to Ronald Young of Concord, "Best Actor" and to Brett Whitcomb of Ashboro, "Best Actress"
- A Director's Chair went to C. Robert James, popular director of drama at the college.
- Winners of the Bush and Sewell contest this spring were Lydia Weaver, Shelby, Easty, Sonjay Murray, Boaz, Percy and Fred Beaska, Shelby, Pasquot.
- Wayne Rock, All American football player from Gardner-Webb, has received a full scholarship to play at Clemson State College in Oklahoma.
- Cathy Bowen of Shelby earned the Sophomore Scholar Award for 1968 with a 3.77 average out of a possible 4.00 over two years.
- Bill Riggs, 6-8 of Greenville, S. C., has signed to play basketball at GW next year.
- The GW Chorus Ensemble presented a half-hour program over WBTV, Charlotte April 25.
- The golf team entered Region 10 play May 23 at Sanford.
- James Finley, chairman of the board of directors of the J. P. Stevens Co., Inc., of New York, N. Y., expressed pleasure at the appearance and conduct of the Gardner-Webb graduating class. He gave the Literary Address at commencement.
- Gardner-Webb is sending student missionaries into the field this year. Miss Mabel Stewart of Newton, N. C., and Bobby Campbell of Charlotte, N. C., will work in Elizabethton, N. J., this summer under the Home Mission Board and Rev. Marvin Harris, pastor of the Methodist Baptist Church in Elizabethton.
- Another student, Linda Roberts of Kings Mountain, will work in Little Rock, Ark., in a Home Mission Board program which lasts 10 weeks.

Alumni Banquet Observations . . . by ALEX VAUGHN

In a time of constant change at Gardner-Webb, outgoing Alumni President James M. Elliott has found one person who never changes. "Mr. Dixon never changes—4 members here from 20 years ago and he looks the same today as he did then," commented Gilbert A. Warren, round of applause greeted the smile and wave of the popular mathematics professor who has been at G-W since 1935 and a student at the college before that time.

Mr. George W. Allen of Palm Harbor, Fla., claimed the longest distance driven to reach the alumni banquet. He drove 385 miles to meet with friends in this area. Mr. Allen attended GW in 1908 when it was Bowling Springs High School.

All classes were represented at the banquet except the Class of 1936. Represented were 1910, 1924, 1928, 1930, 1944, 1949, 1954, 1956, and 1964. Our new 60men, the 1968 class, was well represented.

Some special guests were Mrs. Phil Elliott, widow of the late Gardner-Webb President; Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Hamrick and Mr. and Mrs. Paris L. Yelton, longtime friends and supporters of the college. This was forty seven consecutive years for Mrs. Hamrick.

Mr. U. A. McMass, director of development and alumni work at the college, got a good point across with some humor. He spoke of the obvious success of THE WEB and then said, "It cost more to get the first few editions back than it did to mail them to students. From the first edition, which cost around \$8.00 to mail 7,000, his office received 1,000 in return mail. At 10 cents per copy the college paid \$100 to get these back. Please, he said, give us your correct address."

"The sky is the limit so far as money is concerned," commented Mr. McMass in speaking of the Annual Fund. He said \$4,300 had been received during the past year from alumni, not counting the money given through capital gifts, athletics, or other sources. More than doubling this in 1968-69 is the goal of the alumni association.

John Roberts, recipient of the "Alumnus of the Year" award, said alumni and friends: A college man consider us as parents do their children. Only a parent can take you as you are, teach you and thus give you all the credit if you do well.

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